(4) There may be delays in repatriation of receivable by exporters from Iraq and Kuwait under the prevailing situation. The Reserve Bank of India have reiterated that while all export receivables may be included in the total current assets for arriving at the maximum permissible bank finance, the minimum stipulated Net Working Capital (25 per cent of total current assets under the second method of lending), may be reckoned after excluding the quantum of export receivables from the total current assets.

(5) Exporters would be permitted to sell the cargo shipped to Iraq and Kuwait but off loaded at other ports to alternate buyers on discount upto 10 per cent without reference to RBI. In cases where the reduction in invoice value is more than 10 per cent or Rs. 20,000 whichever is less the cases will be referred to Reserve Bank of India for consideration. Permission to sell the cargo at discount is subject to the following conditions:—

(a) The reduced price at which goods would be sold to alternative buyers who conform to the minimum export price.

(b) The exporter should surrender export incentives proportionately.

Recovery of excise duty wrongfully refunded

73. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much of the amount of excise duty wrongfully refunded to manufacturers earlier this year in violation of the Bombay High Court judgement, has since been recovered; and

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the circumstances of issue of instructions for refund of the excise duty in violation of the High Court order; if so, what are the details and the findings thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The instructions for refund of excise duty were issued by Central Board of Excise and Customs in March, 1990 keeping in view judicial pronouncements on the subject. However, the Government has since decided that in principle it would not be appropriate to refund excise duty to manufacturers as they would have already passed on the burden of the duty to their customers. Necessary legislation for this purpose is being formulated.

IMF Suggestions on Financial Management

74. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund has advised India and other developing countries affected by the Gulf oil crisis that good financial management would consist of devaluation of their currencies in real terms and passing the additional cost of oil to the consumers;

(b) if so, what was the precise advice given by IMF to India; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Members of the IMF have different oil purchasing arrangements as well as difftrent initial pricing conditions, ranging from state subsidisation of prices to uncontrolled private

markets. The IMF have advised its member countries to undertake appropriate energy policy actions. This is understood to mean a movement of domestic energy prices toward international levels.

Economic Pact between India, Vietnam and U.S.S.R.

75 SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he made a three day official visit to Vietnam;

(b) if so, whether this paved the way to a tripartite economic pact between India, Vietnam and USSR; and

(c) what follow-up action, if any, has since been taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) The former Commerce Minister made an official visit to Vietnam in September, 1990.

(b) and (c) The question of tripartite economic co-operation between India, Vietnam and USSR will be decided on a case-to-case basis keeping in view the overall financial implications and other aspects. No such detailed proposals have, however, been received so far.

Debt Relief Scheme for Farmers

76. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government have, in response to requests from State Governments, liberalised further the debt relief scheme for farmers;

(b) if so, what is the revised scheme and what additional concession or relief is sought to be given thereunder; and

(c) how many farmers have so far been given debt relief, State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)· (a) and (b) Since the announcement of the original debt relief scheme on 15th May, 1990, relaxations have been made in respect of the following —

((i) The eligibility criterion for providing debt relief was made applicable to all the borrowers irrespective of the seize of their loans.

(ii) Fishermen are eligible for debt relief irrespective of the location of their activity. Fishing both marine and inland have been included in the scheme.

(iii) Where the Annewari certificates have not been issued by states, certificates issued in the past for the year of calamity by the State Government may be accepted.

(c) The State-wise progress of debt relief scheme as on 17-12-1990 in respect of public sector banks and Cooperatives and Regional Rural Banks is given in Annexure. (*See* Appendix CLVI, Annexure No. 1)

Iron ore Reserves in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh

77. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
KUMARI ALIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the period upto which the iron ore reserves of Bailadila mines in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh are likely to last;

(b) the quantity of iron ore extracted therefrom upto 30th November, 1990;

(c) whether Government propose to set up the seventh steel plant in Bastar district on the principle of locating production centres nearest to places where raw material is available; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?